

Message Text

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73

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 OMB-01

SAB-01 SAM-01 IO-11 ACDA-10 /091 W

----- 092366

R 111436Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 573

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 1804

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR IS SY

SUBJ: RABIN ON SYRIAN WAR THREAT

1. FOLLOWING IS OFFICIAL GOI TEXT OF STATEMENT TO KNESSET
MARCH 10 BY PRIMIN RABIN REGARDING SYRIAN WAR THREAT.

2. BEGIN TEXT: ...ISRAEL'S POLICY IN THE SPHERES OF FOREIGN
RELATIONS AND DEFENSE IS BUILT ON TWO MAIN AXES. ONE AXIS
IS THE CONSTANT STRIVING TO ACHIEVE PEACE, AND UNTIL SUCH
TIME AS IT IS ACHIEVED--TO ENSURE CALM AND THE ATTAINMENT OF
AGREEMENTS ENTAILING MEANINGFUL PROMOTION OF PEACE AND
THE CONSOLIDATION OF STABILITY. THIS POLICY IS ANCHORED IN THE
GOVERNMENT'S BASIC PRINCIPLES, AND ANY ATTEMPT TO THROW SAND
IN PEOPLE'S EYES AND SAY THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS NO POLICY--
DOES NOT HAVE A LEG TO STAND ON.

3. THE GOVERNMENT'S BASIC PRINCIPLES WERE PRESENTED WHEN
THIS GOVERNMENT WAS PRESENTED, AND THAT IS WHAT THEY STATED.
AN EXPRESSION OF THIS IN CURRENT POLICY IS THAT THE
ATTAINMENT OF PEACE IS REGARDED AS THE CENTRAL GOAL. BUT SO
LONG AS THIS GOAL IS UNATTAINABLE, POSSIBILITIES ARE BEING
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EXAMINED FOR THE HOLDING OF NEGOTIATIONS ON ENDING THE STATE

OF WAR.

4. THE SECOND, PARALLEL, AXIS IS THE GUARANTEEING OF THE MILITARY STRENGTH AND THE APPROPRIATE PREPAREDNESS TO ENSURE OUR VERY SURVIVAL; AND SO THAT TOO CONSTITUTES A BASIS FOR ISRAELI FOREIGN POLICY.

5. THERE IS A CONNECTION BETWEEN THESE TWO EFFORTS. ONE COMPLEMENTS THE OTHER, AND ONE IS A CONDITION FOR THE OTHER.

6. AS REGARDS THE REMARKS MADE HERE, ESPECIALLY IN EVERYTHING CONNECTED WITH SYRIA'S POLICY, I SHOULD LIKE TO SAY THAT SINCE THE ATTAINMENT OF THE INERIM AGREEMENT WITH EGYPT, SYRIA HAS BEEN CONDUCTING AN EXTREMIST POLICY, THE PRINCIPAL EXPRESSIONS OF WHICH ARE: IN THE FIRST PLACE, THE ATTEMPT TO BUILD AN EASTERN FRONT, OR A BLOC OR ABAB STATES, WHICH WILL ADOPT A FOREIGN POLICY CORRESPONDING TO SYRIA'S CONCEPT, AND THAT THERE BE MILITARY DEPLOYMENT LENDING GREATER FORCE BOTH TO SYRIAN POLICY AND TO SYRIA'S STRENGTH. TO QUOTE THE SYRIAN GOVERNMENT AND PRESIDENT, THIS COALESCENCE IS INTENDED TO SERVE AS A SUBSTITUTE FOR EGYPT'S ABANDONMENT OF THE STRUGGLE AGAINST ISRAEL. SYRIAN ACTIVITY IS TAKING THE FORM OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH JORDAN AND OTHER FORMS, TO ENSURE INFLUENCE AND CONTROL OVER EVENTS IN LEBANON.

7. I SHOULD LIKE TO SAY THAT JORDAN WOULD DO WELL NOT TO BE LED ASTRAY BY SYRIAN POLICY. THIS WOULD NOT BE TO ITS BENEFIT.

8. TO THOSE FORCES IN LEBANON SEEKING MINIMAL MAINTENANCE OF LEBANESE INDEPENDENCE, I WOULD SUGGEST THAT THEY CLOSELY OBSERVE WHERE SYRIA STANDS.

9. THE SECOND SYRIAN EFFORT IS CONNECTED WITH RENEWAL OF TH U.N. FORCES' MANDATE, WHICH IS DUE TO BE RENEWED ON 30 MAY. IN ANTICIPATION OF THIS DATE, THE SYRIANS ARE ATTEMPTING TO EXPLOIT THE SENSITIVITY--PREVAILING IN THE WORLD--TO POLITICAL BLACKMAIL, WHICH IS ACCOMPANIED BY COVERT AND OVERT MILITARY THREATS. IN CONNECTION WITH THESE ATTEMPTS, THE WORLD, SYRIA AND THE ARAB STATES SHOULD BE MADE CLEARLY AWARE: ISRAEL WILL OPPOSE ANY ATTEMPT AT POLITICAL BLACKMAIL IN EXCHANGE FOR UNCLASSIFIED

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RENEWAL OF THE U.N. FORCES' MANDATE. THE U.N. FORCES ARE PART OF THE DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT SIGNED BETWEEN SYRIA AND ISRAEL. THERE IS NOT REASON FOR ISRAEL TO HAVE MORE OF AN INTEREST IN THE PRESENCE OF THESE FORCES THAN SYRIA HAS. IN MY VIEW, IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES CREATED FOLLOWING THE INTERIM AGREEMENT WITH EGYPT, SYRIA SHOULD HAVE A GREATER INTEREST THAN ISRAEL IN THE OBSERVANCE OF THE (DISENGAGEMENT) AGREEMENT IN ALL ITS COMPONENTS.

10. HENCE, SYRIA WOULD DO WELL NOT TO PLAY WITH FIRE. AND THE
STATE OF ISRAEL IS DUTY-BOUND TO SEE THINGS IN SOBER PERSPECTIVE,
CAML, IN ASSURANCE OF ITS STRENGTH AND ITS ABILITY TO STAND
FIRM POLITICALLY AND BE PREPARED MILITAILY. AND I DO NOT
RECOMMEND--FOR CONSIDERATIONS OF EITHER COALITION OR OPPOSITION-
THE SOWING OF CONFUSION AND LACK OF CONFIDENCE. WE ARE STRONG
WE KNOW WHAT WE WANT, WE ARE PREPARED AND READY FOR ANY
DEVELOPMENT. END TEXT.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: WAR, THREATS, CENTRAL LEGISLATURE, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976TELAV01804
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760093-0562
From: TEL AVIV
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760369/aaaacjam.tel
Line Count: 125
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: wolfsd
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 JUL 2004 by vandyklc>; APPROVED <23 AUG 2004 by wolfsd>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RABIN ON SYRIAN WAR THREAT
TAGS: PFOR, IS, SY, (RABIN, YITZHAK)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006